

Even when Captain Gottuso wasn't on the front lines, he worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Hillsborough's residents, as well as the lives of the men and women serving our country abroad. Gottuso worked with overseas Unit Commanders during his time as the administrator of the Adopt-a-Troop program, a non-profit organization that sends much-needed care packages to our troops fighting overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2004, I worked closely with Captain Gottuso to redesignate the Eugene A. Doran Memorial Bridge which spans the scenic Crystal Springs Dam on I-280 in San Mateo County. The bridge was named after the slain Hillsborough police officer and we passed a California Senate Resolution to include Officer Doran's son who died in the line of duty in Vietnam. The Bridge was renamed the Officer Eugene and Marine Lance Corporal Patrick M. Doran Memorial Bridge.

Despite Captain Gottuso's extensive service on the front lines of law enforcement, he never lost his sense of humor or desire to entertain. Captain Gottuso's ability to lighten the mood delighted generations of schoolchildren during police presentations. His yearly narration of the K-9 squad demonstration made it a truly enjoyable and memorable event for anyone who witnessed it.

Nicholas Carl Gottuso was born in Ft. Carson, Colorado in 1954 and attended Mills High School in Millbrae, California. In his spare time he enjoys boating, karate, flying, coaching soccer and he is an avid Marksmanship advocate.

In 1991 he married his wonderful wife Paulette and they are the proud parents of Dominic, Marisa, Nicolette and Samantha.

Captain Gottuso's dedication to public safety, effective enforcement of the law, record of bringing criminals to justice and protecting innocent life and property while maintaining the highest level of professionalism and an infectious sense of humor all warrant special gratitude and recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of this body to join me in honoring Nicholas Gottuso upon his retirement for his dedication to public service at the Hillsborough Police Department.

EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, H.R. 2218, which is a bipartisan bill to reform and strengthen the charter school program.

I recently gave the graduation speech at the Princeton Charter School, a high quality charter that opened its doors more than a decade ago and was recognized as a blue ribbon school by the U.S. Department of Education in 2004. And I was pleased to see the success

there. But I urged them to make sure they are well-integrated in the public school system in their community.

We need to reinvigorate America's education system and give each and every child the opportunity to learn and thrive. I am an advocate of alternative forms of education including charter schools. I think these institutions can be viable and beneficial in promoting academic achievement and diversity.

It is important to remember that charter schools are part of the public school system, and we must hold them to the same standards of broad educational access and same standards of accountability—which means we have to be willing to shut down charter schools that fail to meet expectations. Otherwise, charter schools are not true to their reason for being: to inject innovation and experimentation into the public school system. I am pleased that this bill increases accountability for charter schools and ensures states use a schools performance as a primary factor for charter renewal.

I have long believed that charter school innovations and best practices must be shared with other school districts—urban, rural, and suburban school districts alike. This requires work on both sides: outreach by the charter schools and acceptance by the traditional public school system to learn what there is to be learned. I worked with Rep. POLIS to include such language in his ALL-STAR Act.

That is why I am pleased that the bipartisan legislation before us today includes provisions to require charter schools to disseminate best practices with other public schools.

This legislation also ensures that States work with charter school authorizers to put in place the quality controls necessary for holding charter schools accountable, including annual performance data and financial audits. These provisions will lead to more replication of high-quality charter schools nationwide.

I share the concerns of some that more can be done to improve the accountability, equity and transparency of charter school, and as we continue to move this bill through the process, I hope additional improvements can be made. But we should all recognize that this bill makes a great deal of progress from the existing program and deserves our support today.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN AND MARY ANNE COX, AND JIM AND PAULETTE PHILLIPS, FOR THEIR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HEROES RUN/WALK

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary fortitude and abiding generosity of two sets of parents of fallen heroes.

John and Mary Anne Cox lost their son, Army Specialist Gregory Cox, in Iraq in September of 2004. Less than 2 years later, in February of 2006, Jim and Paulette Phillips lost their son, Marine Lance Corporal Steven Phillips, in the same war.

In the face of such horrific personal loss, the parents of Army Specialist Cox and Lance Corporal Phillips chose neither to languish in

their own sadness, nor make their own emotional convalescence the focus of their lives. Instead, in the spirit of the selflessness of their courageous sons, they chose to create an event devoted to enriching the lives of others.

The event, the annual Heroes Run/Walk, will take place for the fifth time this Saturday, September 17, 2011, at Green Cove Yacht Club in Millsboro, Pennsylvania. The majority of the proceeds from the event will benefit the memorial funds that have been established to honor the sacrifices of Specialist Cox and Lance Corporal Phillips. Specialist Cox's fund provides support to graduates of Greene County High Schools entering the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) or intending to pursue a field of study that will lead to a career in public service. Lance Corporal Phillips' fund provides support to the computer-aided technology drafting program at Greene County Career and Technology Center. Part of the proceeds from the Heroes Run/Walk will also be used to fund the transportation of veterans living in Greene County who are receiving treatment at the Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

Last year, the race's over 400 registrants raised in excess of \$15,000. Sponsors and organizers of the event expect a strong turnout again this Saturday, and are eager to once more honor the memory of Specialist Cox and Lance Corporal Phillips.

The Heroes Run/Walk is a testament to its founders, John and Mary Anne Cox, and Jim and Paulette Phillips, and demonstrates their capacity to turn tragedy into an amazing gift for others. They deserve both our support and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN BARLOW

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ann Barlow who served as president and chairperson of the board for the Professional Businesswomen of California for the last four years. Ann has been an inspirational and effective leader of PBWC which I founded 23 years ago to help women advance professionally. The board of directors is very fortunate to retain her as a member, but will certainly miss her gracious leadership.

Ann became involved with PBWC as soon as she moved from New York to the Bay Area in 2005. She happened to move in next door to the former president, Debra Boblitt, who immediately recognized Ann as a perfect candidate for the board. She was voted in as president two years later.

Ann possesses all the qualities and qualifications it takes to be a successful business woman; she is smart, creative, professional, funny, warm, beautiful and generous. She has lent her talents to Peppercom for the last ten years. She is a partner and the president of its West Coast operations and led the founding of GreenPepper, Peppercom's environmental sustainability services.

Before she joined Peppercom, Ann led the New York office of Interpublic Group-Owned Mindstorm Communications.

Ann is a master communicator and has written numerous articles and given many